

SUB D27
C1 positioning a layer of gas permeable material in contact with a portion of a surface of the product;

positioning a layer of impermeable material in a manner such that a space exists between at least a portion of the layer of impermeable material and the portion of the surface, the layer of gas permeable material being positioned in the space;

applying heat within the space; and

removing gas and unreacted chemicals in a vapor state from fibre/resin layers of the product by creating a partial vacuum within the space in a manner such that the partial vacuum is in communication with all of the portion of the surface of the product that is in contact with the layer of gas permeable material, the partial vacuum having a pressure of between 2 and 5 mb Abs.

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C2 3. (Thrice Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the layer of impermeable material has a peripheral edge that is configured and adapted to form an air tight seal with the surface of the product when biased against the surface by the partial vacuum and the step of removing gas and unreacted chemicals in a vapor state from the product further comprises securing the peripheral edge of the layer of impermeable material to the surface via the partial vacuum.

4. (Cancelled, without prejudice)

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C3 5. (Thrice Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the creation of the partial vacuum in the step of removing gas and unreacted chemical in a vapor state from the product commences before the step of applying heat within the space.

6. (Thrice Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the step of removing gas and unreacted chemicals in a vapor state from the product further comprises reducing pressure within the space in a manner such that the partial vacuum is maintained between the levels of 2 mb Abs and 5 mb Abs for a period of at least an hour.

7. (Thrice Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the product is a composite moulding of glassfibre and polyester resin and the step of applying heat within the space further comprises applying sufficient heat to cause the surface of the composite moulding to maintain a temperature between 80°C and 90°C for at least an hour, the method of treating

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C3 the composite molding further comprising the step of preventing the surface of the composite moulding from reaching a temperature in excess of 90°C throughout the method.

8. (Cancelled, without prejudice)

9. (Cancelled, without prejudice)

10. (Cancelled, without prejudice)

C4
11. (Twice Amended) An assembly comprising:
a glassfibre product having a surface that is devoid of gelcoat material;
a layer of gas permeable material positioned adjacent at least a portion of the surface of the product;
a layer of gas impermeable material in contact with the surface of the product in a manner enclosing a space between the layer of impermeable material and the surface of the product, the layer of gas permeable material being within the space;
a heater operatively connected to the space between the layer of impermeable material and the portion of the surface of the product; and
a partial vacuum within the space, the partial vacuum having a pressure between 2 mb Abs and 5 mb Abs, the partial vacuum being in communication with the entire portion of the surface of the product that is in contact with the layer of gas permeable material.

12. (Cancelled, without prejudice)

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19. (Amended) A method of treating a glassfibre reinforced boat hull, the boat hull having an exterior surface, the method comprising:
removing gelcoat from the exterior surface of the boat hull;
positioning a layer of gas permeable material in contact with a portion of the exterior surface of the hull from which the gelcoat has been removed;
positioning a layer of impermeable material adjacent the layer of gas permeable material in a manner such that the layer of gas permeable material is positioned in a space between the layer of impermeable material and the portion of the surface of the hull;
securing the layer of impermeable material to the surface of the hull circumferentially around the space occupied by the layer of gas permeable material in a manner such that gas

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and vapor can be evacuated from the space;

applying heat to within the space occupied by the layer of gas permeable material;

removing gas and vapor from the hull by creating a partial vacuum by reducing pressure

within the space occupied by the layer of gas permeable material;

removing the layers of gas permeable and impermeable material from the hull; and

applying a layer of gelcoat to the exterior surface of the hull from which the gelcoat has been removed.

20. (Amended) A kit for treating a glass fibre reinforced boat hull having a surface, the kit comprising:

a layer of gas permeable material configured and adapted to be positioned in contact with a portion of the surface of the hull, the layer of gas permeable material having a periphery;

a layer of impermeable material configured and adapted to be positioned adjacent the layer of gas permeable material in a manner such that the layer of gas permeable material can be positioned in a space between the layer of impermeable material and the portion of the surface of the hull, the layer of gas permeable material being configured and adapted such that the layer of impermeable material can not contact the portion of the surface of the hull when the layer of impermeable material is positioned over the layer of gas permeable material and the layer of gas permeable material is in contact with the portion of the surface of the hull;

means for securing the layer of impermeable material to the surface of the hull around the periphery of the layer of gas permeable material to thereby enclose and seal the space between the layer of impermeable material and the surface of the hull when the layer of gas permeable material is positioned in the space between the layer of impermeable material and the portion of the surface of the hull;

means for applying heating within the space; and

means for reducing pressure within the space to a level between 2 and 5 mb Abs in a manner such that unreacted chemicals in fibre/resin layers of the hull can be extracted in a vapor state from the hull through the portion of the surface of the hull and through the layer of gas permeable material when the layer of gas permeable material is positioned in the space between the layer of impermeable material and the portion of the surface of the hull and the layer of impermeable material is secured to the surface of the hull around the periphery of the layer of gas permeable material.

22. (Cancelled, without prejudice)